



"He that is good is free, though he be a slave;  
he that is evil is a slave, though he be a king."

— ST. AUGUSTINE

# Common Sense®

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## Bright Side of Trials to Come

### God's Wrath...

THE ULTIMATE RESOURCE  
OF HIS MERCY

By Fr. GEORGES de NANTES  
(of France)

People in our times are very, very frivolous. Perhaps that is an excuse for them. Earthquakes do not wake them up, cholera only bothers them physically, not spiritually. We don't know of any bishop who has ordered prayers, fasting, and processions against contagion, so that we might be spared these great torments which the Church has always regarded as chastisements: "A flagello terraemotus, libera nos, Domine. A peste, fame et bello, libera nos, Domine." We no longer have the fear of God. We are frivolous indeed.

Now we have the new American missile Poseidon, rival of the Soviet SS9. Its nose cone carries twelve nuclear charges able to destroy twelve cities at the same time; twelve missiles, just to be sure, and if there should be an error of calculation, it will be twelve atomic bombs per city, 144 bombs at a single time. The arms race continues. Brejnev in hammering his words home was formal about it: "The USSR will not accept the military superiority of the USA," and La Croix (a Paris Catholic daily) ended up

PRAY and DO PENANCE as requested  
by the Mother of God.



We say that people have the leaders they deserve; but it is demonstrated that people are what their leaders make of them, and that the flock is worth what its shepherd is worth. And what are the Pastors of the Church doing amidst this world-wide decay? They are suppressing the Word of God which threatens terrible chastisements for the unfaithful nations. They invent reassuring political solutions which despise the law of God. They fear that preaching Jesus Christ would increase the tensions which engender "fanaticism", they prefer to eliminate these "theological discussions," as Paul VI says, which divide men. They authorize themselves for the great cause, the "supreme cause of peace" to sacrifice Jesus Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life once again on the altar of humanity. They are denying the sole Saviour, in order to promote a universal religiosity which, according to them, would avoid the "absurd" confrontation of war. They believe in the Man and build the Masdu. (Movement of the Spiritual Animation of Universal Democracy, the blending of heresies, in other words).

Read the Credo of Father Wenger, special correspondent for La Croix in Israel. A light-hearted speech, but the speech of a traitor:

"Today it is necessary to disarm the extremists of both camps, to have confidence in peace (!), to reassure those who are afraid . . . In Israel, people greet one another with the biblical greeting: Shalom . . . peace. Nowhere else has a more universal message of peace and reconciliation been delivered to the world. Peace is equally dear to the Arabs and to the Jews. Beyond Jerusalem, in the Neguev and in Sinai, at the borders of the two peoples, there opens out in the desert the unexplored world of silence.

"It is there, to use the expression of Abba Eban, that 'the breath that inspired Moses, Jesus, and Mohammed is found. It is there that the true resurrection of the dead is being prepared, and it is there around Jeru-

(Continued on Page 2, Column 1)

### God's Love...

By Father Hilaire de la Transfiguration, O.D.M.  
(Republished from MAGNIFICAT)

God's chastisement of humanity is inevitable. But if we were to think only about the sufferings that it will be necessary to endure during those sad days, we would lose courage and would only be able to live in sadness. God does nothing without a reason, and His reasons are always marked and motivated by love, even when He strikes. We must not for a moment doubt God's limitless love for us. In particular, we will have to keep from doubting it during the darkest days. If God, regrettably and after so many repeated warnings, is preparing to chastise the world, it is because He has exhausted all other means to bring humanity back to the road of true happiness.

"Where then is the bright side of these chastisements?" you will ask. "Are you going to say there is reason for rejoicing in what is coming?" By faith, yes, in a sense, and here are the reasons:

—Presently, nothing succeeds in really touching most people's hearts. The woes which happen here and there in the world are not sufficient to stir human beings out of their apathy. A minute of compassion, a glimmer of sympathy, then each of us continues his pseudo-Christian life, his life of

God rewards with His Mercy  
only those who merit it.

in pagan fashion: This "game" presents certain dangers. It is a spiral or a vicious circle. In his Persian Letters, Montesquieu long ago was saying: "I always tremble with fear that someone may succeed in discovering a secret which furnishes a quicker way of killing humanity, of destroying people and entire nations. Today, in the general indifference of public opinion, Americans and Soviets alike rival one another in this ruinous race in ruse and counter-ruse, at the end of which will be the end of the world." (August 23rd). La Croix is hardly worried at all.

If the people of the world are going forward "in generalized indifference" toward these catastrophes which will perhaps not be the end of the world, if they are all living in contempt of God and in degeneracy, as in Noah's day before the deluge, whose fault is it?

Why let THE SECRET OF FATIMA lie dormant in the Pope's personal drawer when only the solemn warning of the Mother of God is capable of waking up Christians and bringing them back to prayer, to penance, and to the practice of the state of grace? What pope or bishop can be found who would make the prayer taught to the children of Fatima his pastoral program, and before that, his own personal one? "O Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fire of hell, and lead all souls to heaven, especially those in most need of Thy mercy!"

godlessness, forgetting eternity and seeking to make a paradise on earth for himself.

The chastisement to come will affect everyone. By the mercy of God, each will be virtually forced to enter into himself, to reflect and to bring himself into harmony with God.

—The forces of evil are currently so powerful that the good has practically no more chance of survival. The preaching of the integral Gospel has become almost impossible. Those who still dare to speak the truth have their throats slit, and before very long, if God did not intervene, there would not remain a single valiant defender of the Faith.

The Chastisement, by destroying present-day society and its way of life, in which God has no place, will permit the building of a Christian world. It is sad to think that this construction will have to be carried out over ruins; but there is no other solution. God will make disappear all those perverse men, agents of satan, who deceive souls and prevent the diffusion of the truth.

After the "great housecleaning" of the world, and only then, will the Gospel be able to be preached everywhere. The Faith will flower again, the Church will be restored, God will reign (at least for a time). To obtain such results, don't we accept any suffering?

(Continued on Page 4, Column 3)